

Current Affairs=11-06-2020

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal releases 5th edition of NIRF Rankings 2020; IIT Madras tops the list of ‘overall category’

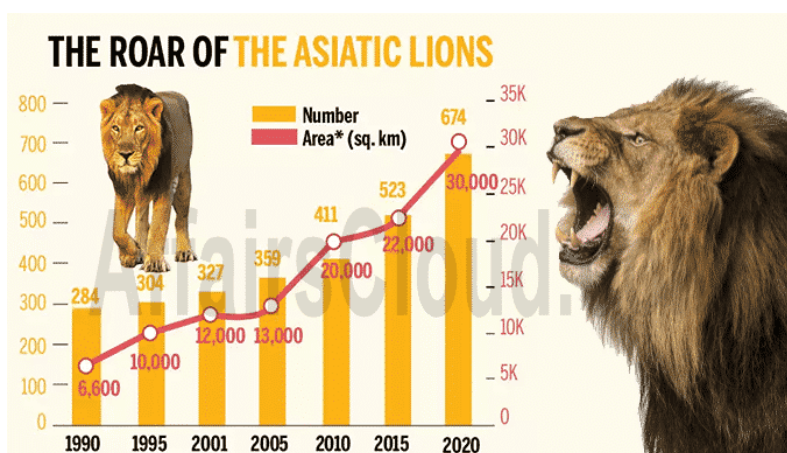


On June 11, 2020, The Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) **Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** has virtually released 5th edition of **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2020**, which

accounted 5805 institutes for the ranking based on 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.

i. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (Tamil Nadu) has topped the list of ‘overall ranking’ category with a score of 85.31 followed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

Gir Sanctuary Gujarat’s Asiatic Lion population risen to 29% in 5 years; “Poonam Avlokan” survey



i. The population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary in Gujarat was surveyed with the help of **Poonam Avlokan** exercise, which showed an increase in the Lion population to 29% in 2020 from 27% in 2015. Also, the distribution area of the

lions was also increased to **36%** from 22,000sq Km in 2015 to 30,000 sq Km in 2020.

ii. The Asiatic lions are found in protected areas and agro-pastoral regions of Saurashtra covering about 9 districts in the Gir forest.

About Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

It is the largest compacted dry deciduous forest in the western region of India. It was declared a sanctuary in 1965. Is it the only place in the world to host the Asiatic lion, an endangered animal species. It also houses a number of species of exotic birds and animals in its flourishing flora and fauna. It covers about 1153.42 sq. km area out of which an area of 258.71 sq. km. was declared a National Park.

QS ‘World University Ranking 2021’ 17th edition ; 3 Indian Institutes among top 200



RANK	Institution
172	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
185	Indian Institute of Science
193	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)

QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is a global education analyst that released the **17th edition** of the **QS World University Rankings 2021**. This year only **3 Indian Institutions** were among the **top two-hundred** ranks 2 IIT’s and IISC.

Globally, **MIT** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), USA continues to be the number one for the **9th year in a row**. For the first time more than ever, about **26 Asian Institutions** have been featured in the global top 100.

The six **QS rankings indicators** to qualify for ranking are based on:

- i. academic reputation(40% weightage)
- ii. employer reputation(10% weightage)
- iii. citations per faculty(20% weightage)
- iv. faculty/student ratio(20% weightage)
- v. international faculty ratio and international student ratio(5% weightage)

Top 5 Global ranking Institutions:

QS World University Rankings 2021 (TOP 5)			
2021	2020	Institution	Country
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology(MIT)	USA
2	2	Stanford University	USA
3	3	Harvard University	USA
4	5	California Institute of Technology(Cal Tech)	USA
5	4	University of Oxford	UK

Indian Institutions

This year only **3 Institutions** from India were among the **top two-hundred** ranks, with IIT's dominating the list.

Indian Institutes Ranking in Top 200:

- **IIT Bombay** with the top spot at rank **172** (152 in 2020)
- **IISc Bengaluru** was at the **185th** spot (184 in 2020)
- **IIT Delhi** was ranked **193** in the globe (182 in 2020)

QS World University ranking is the world's leading provider of services, analytics and insight to the global higher education sector it was inaugurated in 2004. It is the world's most consulted source of comparison on University performance. QS releases the World University Ranking of top 1000 universities every year.

Mercer's 26th Annual 'Cost of Living Survey 2020 ': Mumbai ranks 60th globally, 19th in Asia

On June 10, 2020, Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, **Mumbai** city has been ranked **60th** most **expensive** city globally and also **19th in Asia**. Mumbai is the only Indian city ranked in the top 100. **Hongkong** tops the list globally.

Mercer's 26th annual *Cost of Living Survey* will help employers navigate non-native packages, essential due to uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic and consider **alternate** forms of international assignments to sustain overseas operations.

Mumbai Most Expensive Indian City for Expats

19th Ranks in Asia



- The survey includes over 400 cities throughout the world; this year's ranking includes 209 cities across five continents.
- It measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including

housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.

Note: New York City is used as the base city for all comparisons and currency movements are measured against the US dollar.

Highlights of the survey:

Costliest cities (Top 10 Global):

The world's most expensive city since 2019 has remained **Hong Kong** and the survey suggests that the **least expensive** cities for emigrants are **Tunis, Tunisia at 209** globally and **Windhoek, Namibia at 208**.

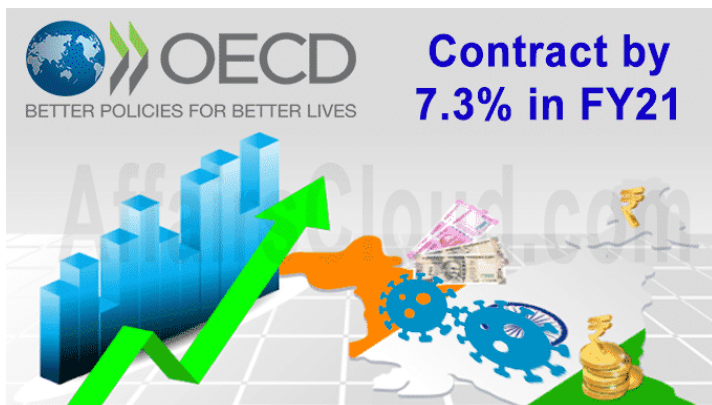
Rank Global 2019	Rank Global 2020	City	Country or region
1	1	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
7	2	Ashgabat	Turkmenistan
2	3	Tokyo	Japan
5	4	Zurich	Switzerland
3	5	Singapore	Singapore

Most expensive Indian cities

Mumbai tops the list at a global rank of **60** and also the **19th** most expensive city in **Asia**. Followed by **New Delhi** at **101** and **Chennai** at **143**.

Bengaluru and **Kolkata** are the least expensive Indian cities with ranks (global) **171** and **185** respectively.

India's predicted -7.3% for FY21 in case of second Covid-19 outbreak: OECD's June 2020 EO



i.India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for FY 2020-2021 predicted at **-3.7%** which can further decelerate to **-7.3%** in case of a second Covid-19 outbreak.

ii.On global front, report has projected sharp **6%** contraction in FY21 followed by a strong **5.2%** rebound in FY21-22. In

case of double-hit scenario, a steep contraction of **7.6%** is expected for FY21 and **2.8%** rebound in FY22.

iii.It should be noted that EO, June 2020 has assumed an implementation of shutdowns in the December 2020 quarter (Q3), following another surge of the COVID-19 virus. This assumption is regarded as a double-hit scenario.

About OECD:

Secretary-General– Jose Angel Gurría Trevino

Chief economist– Laurence Boone

Headquarters– Paris, France

Member countries– 37 (not India)

Indian Musician Shobha Sekhar receives “the Medal of the Order of Australia”

Australian honour for Indian musician

Shobha Sekhar



Indian Musician **Shobha Sekhar**, the founder of Kalakruthi a music organisation in Australia receives the Medal of the Order of Australia(OAM) in the Queen’s Birthday 2020 for her service to Indian music and dance.

About Shobha Sekhar:

i.Shobha Sekhar is a management graduate and an artist based in

Montreal

ii.she works as a lecturer at the **University of Melbourne.**

iii.She was trained by DKP, DK Jayaraman and K V Narayanaswamy.

iv.She started the **Kalakruthi in 1994** affiliated with **The Music Academy**, Chennai and has been training many aspirants of Carnatic music.

Ukrainian boxing champion and Olympic medalist Oleksandr Gvozdyk retires



On 10th June 2020, the 33-year-old Ukrainian lightweight boxing champion **Oleksandr Gvozdyk** also known as “**The Nail**” announced his retirement. He was born on 15th April 1987 in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Key Points:

i.He won the **Bronze** medal in the **2012** Olympic games.

ii.He won the **2018** World Boxing Councils(WBCs) light heavyweight world title against **Adonis Stevenson** in Quebec.

iii.He lost the 2019 championship against Artur Beterbiev, Russian fighter which was the only loss in his pro career (17-1).

iv.He was the Former light heavyweight champion of North American Boxing Federation(NABF).